

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-3, 6-7, 11-13, 16-17, 19-21, and 27-28 as set forth below.

Please add new claims 29-39 as set forth below.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A slide-out mechanism comprising:

a frame; said frame comprising at least one first frame member and at least one second frame member, said at least one second frame member being movable relative to said at least one first frame member;

said second frame member comprising:

a first support rail having an elongated shape and a longitudinal axis extending along said longitudinal shape;

a second support rail having an elongated shape and a longitudinal axis extending along said longitudinal shape;

said first support rail being fixedly connected to said second support rail along longitudinally opposing sides of said first support rail and said second support rail at a connecting area, said connecting area having an elongated shape and a longitudinal axis along said longitudinal shape, said longitudinal axis of said connecting area being substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of each of said first and second support rails; said connecting area comprising at least one connecting member;

said first support rail located at substantially the same height as said second support rail such that a top surface of said first support rail is positioned at substantially the same height as a top surface of said second support rail; and

~~comprised of a first support rail and a second support rail, said first and second support rails being fixedly connected to each other along a vertical plane such that a~~

~~load encountered by said second frame member is distributed laterally in a horizontal plane containing said first and second support rails; and,~~

a floor structure connected to said second frame member.

2. (Currently Amended) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein a said longitudinal axis of said first support rail is parallel to a said longitudinal axis of said second support rail.

3. (Currently Amended) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said connecting member is a weld. ~~said first support rail is welded to said second support rail.~~

4. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a rectangular cross section.

5. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 4, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a closed rectangular cross section.

6. (Currently Amended) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said connecting member comprises a third support rail fixed between said first support rail and said second support rail. ~~said first support rail and said second support rail are separated by an intervening connective structure.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The slide out mechanism of claim 6, further comprising a gear rack disposed at least partially on said connecting area. ~~wherein a gear rack is disposed on said connective structure.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said at least one first frame member is fixed to a vehicle.

9. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 1, wherein said second frame member telescopes relative to said first frame member.

10. (Original) The slide out mechanism of claim 9, wherein said second frame member telescopes inside of said first frame member.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having at least two stationary members and at least two movable members;

urging said at least two movable members outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails which are laterally joined to each other at a connecting area having a longitudinal axis parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails, said connecting area comprising at least one connecting member; along a substantially vertical junction and said two longitudinally extending support rails being at substantially the same height such that a top surface of each of said support rails is positioned at substantially the same height and which are included as part of each of said at least two movable members.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said connecting member comprises at least one of the following:

a. at least one weld; and

b. a third support rail fixed between said first support rail and said second support rail. ~~the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over said support rails and wherein said support rails are connectively spaced from each other.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the providing of a slide out frame ~~includes~~ comprises ~~providing at least two movable members that have a~~

gear rack at least partially disposed on said connecting area. ~~between said at least two support rails.~~

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the urging of said at least two movable members includes causing a motive force to act on said gear rack.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 15, wherein the distributing of said ~~weigh~~ weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the distributing of said ~~weigh~~ weight includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the urging of said at least two movable members includes continuing moving the two movable members outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having a stationary member and a movable member;

urging said movable member outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails having substantially the same height, and ~~which are~~ fixed to each other along a linking portion positioned between said at least two longitudinally

extending support rails; said linking portion further positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails ~~vertical direction~~ and which are included as part of said movable member.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over said support rails and wherein said support rails are connectively spaced from each other by said linking portion.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the providing of a slide out frame includes providing a gear rack at least partially disposed on said linking portion. ~~a movable member that has a gear rack disposed between said at least two longitudinally extending support rails.~~

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein the urging of said movable member includes causing a motive force to act on said gear rack.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the distributing of said weigh includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the distributing of said weigh includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein the urging of said movable member includes continuing moving the movable member outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.

27. (Currently Amended) A slide-out mechanism comprising:

a frame; said frame comprising at least one first frame member and at least one second frame member, said at least one second frame member being movable relative to said at least one first frame member;

said second frame member comprised of a first support rail and a second support rail, said first and second support rails being fixedly connected to each other at a connection portion; said connection portion having an elongated axis positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails in a horizontal plane such that a load encountered by said second frame member is distributed laterally across a top surface of said first and second support rails; said first and second support rails fixed at substantially the same height; and,

a floor structure connected to said second frame member

wherein said connection portion is disposed at the junction of said first support rail and said second support rail ~~are separated by an intervening connective structure.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The slide out mechanism of claim 27, wherein a gear rack is disposed on said connection portion ~~connective structure.~~

29. (New) The slide out mechanism of claim 27, wherein said connection portion is selected from a group consisting of:

- a. a weld; and
- b. a third support rail.

30. (New) A slide-out mechanism comprising:

a frame; said frame comprising at least one first frame member and at least one second frame member, said at least one second frame member being movable relative to said at least one first frame member;

said second frame member comprised of a first support rail and a second support rail, said first and second support rails being fixedly connected to each other along a junction positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails; and,

a floor structure connected to said second frame member;

wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a rectangular cross section.

31. (New) The slide out mechanism of claim 30, wherein said first support rail and said second support rail have a closed rectangular cross section.

32. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having at least two stationary members and at least two movable members;

urging said at least two movable members outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails which are laterally joined to each other along a junction; a longitudinal axis of said junction positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails; said two longitudinally extending support rails being at substantially the same height and which are included as part of each of said at least two movable members;

wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over said support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

33. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

34. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having at least two stationary members and at least two movable members;

urging said at least two movable members outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails which are laterally joined to each other along a junction; a longitudinal axis of said junction positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails; said two longitudinally extending support rails being at substantially the same height and which are included as part of each of said at least two movable members;

wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

35. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having at least two stationary members and at least two movable members;

urging said at least two movable members outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails which are laterally joined to each other along a junction; a longitudinal axis of said junction positioned parallel to a longitudinal axis of each of said two longitudinally extending support rails; said two longitudinally extending support rails being at substantially the same height and which are included as part of each of said at least two movable members;

wherein the urging of said at least two movable members includes continuing moving the two movable members outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.

36. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having a stationary member and a movable member;

urging said movable member outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails having substantially the same height, and which are fixed to each other along a vertical direction and which are included as part of said movable member; and,

wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially rectangular cross-section.

37. (New) A method according to claim 36, wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing said weight over support rails that have a substantially closed rectangular cross-section.

38. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having a stationary member and a movable member;

urging said movable member outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails having substantially the same height, and which are fixed to each other along a vertical direction and which are included as part of said movable member; and,

wherein the distributing of said weight includes distributing weight over support rails that have a tubular configuration.

39. (New) A method of moving a slide out compartment on a vehicle comprising:

providing a slide out frame having a stationary member and a movable member;

urging said movable member outwardly from the vehicle; and,

distributing a weight of said slide out compartment over at least two longitudinally extending support rails having substantially the same height, and which are fixed to each other along a vertical direction and which are included as part of said movable member; and,

wherein the urging of said movable member includes continuing moving the movable member outwardly until a floor of said compartment is flush with a floor of said vehicle.